

REMARKS**A. Introduction**

In this Office Action claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20 and 21 are noted as pending and are rejected based on prior art.

In summary of this Response, claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20 and 21 are canceled and new claims 22-25 are added and remarks are provided.

Applicants have timely filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with this Amendment, including the filing fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the finality of any Office action and enter this Amendment for consideration under 37 CFR 1.114.

B. Rejection of Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20 and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The previously pending claims were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,578,074 of Bahlmann. While these claims are canceled herein, rendering the rejection moot, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention, as recorded by new independent claims 22 and 24, and new claims 23 and 25 depending therefrom, was neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited reference.

A feature that distinguishes new independent claims 22 and 24 over the applied art is:

receiving a request from the communication device and
if the state relating to the communication device is a permission for
an assignment, assigning an identifier to the communication
device in a response to the request and extending the valid term
for a predetermined period of time, and
if the state relating to the communication device is a prohibition of
an assignment, assigning no identifier to the communication
device in a response to the request and extending the valid term
for a predetermined period of time.

Support for this feature is found, e.g., in FIG. 3 and the related written description at pages 15-19.

New claims 23 and 25 ultimately depend from claims 22 and 24, respectively, and so at least similarly distinguish over the asserted combination of references.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22-25 are now in condition for allowance.


If there are any additional fees associated with this Response, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Response, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone conference with the Examiner to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: December 9, 2008
1201 New York Ave., N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

By: 
Aaron C. Walker
Registration No. 59,921